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## CITY HAS NEED OF LIVE BODY OF MEN IN COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION

Noted Expert Worker Declares Program Necessary to **Develop Activity** 

By W. SCOTT RADSKER, in The Rotarian.

[Mr. Radeker, a member of the Rotary Club of Muskogee, is the managing secretary of the Greater Muskogee Association. Why is a commercial organization?

That is the question that has been asked a good many times. It has been answered in many ways. Some people are under the impression that a commercial organization, like the bow on the back of your hat, is just a fad, one of those things we endure for fear of what would be said about us if we didn't. Others who think deeply realize that every commercial organiza-tion, no matter how inefficient it may be, does some good.

The question arises: "If they are so necessary to the growth of a city, how did New York or Boston or Philadelphia get to be such big cities before all this talk started about chambers of commerce; how did they grow so fast without such organizations? The reswer is: "They didn't."

The city of New York had a commercial organization before the Revolution. Fifty years after the city of New York organized her chamber of commerce, Philadelphia and Boston followed suit. With a few exceptions these organizations worked largely along the same lines that present day boards of trade and chambers of commerce work.

It is worthy of note that at one time New York and Charleston, S. C., each had an equal chance at being the blg city of America and that on account of a better harbor, richer soil and a more salubrious climate the advantage was with Charleston. New York City had an active commercial organization. Charleston didn't.

Two Cities Contrasted. The people of New York were aggressive and the people of Charleston were indifferent. Look at New York today and look at Charleston. It is true that Charleston today has a live commercial organization, and it is equally true that New York City is reaping the benefits of those old Knickerbockers in their chamber of

Benjamin Franklin and his little club, known as the Junto, did things for Philadelphia that she is still enjoying and it is quite probable that they are in a large measure responsible for Philadelphia being such a big dot on the map. Many believe that they were the nucleus of the first commercial organization in Philadel-

In the last five years a great deal has been done toward standardizing commercial organizations but there are still many who believe that the chief function of their community organization is to tear down rather than to build up. Commercial organizations of today have a much broader field than fighting railroads, raising bonuses for slick promoters and "cussing" the local public utilities corpora-tions and the city and county officers.

Commercial Organization Necessary. The commercial organization of to day is necessary because, by reason of the increased transportation facili-ties in the past 30 years business no onger depends upon five or 10 large trade centers. There are more than 288 major trade centers in the United States today and new ones are springing up each year. Competition is forcing the manufacturers in the New England states, once the only manufacturing center in the country of any consequence, to build branch factories

This gives rise to the rivalry between cities. Aside from the fact that organization or in cases where there every town cherishes the name of be- is a serious division of opinion among

Every city in the United States toof like size and environment and just how successful she is in that rivalry depends upon how constructive minded her citizens are. The local commercial organization is the mirror that reflects this mental condition. If you see a city with a commercial organization working hard and making no headway and the people of the community criticising the few who are doing the hardest work (and there are always a few self-sacrificing men who bear the brunt in every city) don't make the mistake that the directors are to blame for the condition. It is a reflection of the mental attitude of the community. Sometimes it can be corrected and sometimes it can't. Usually it can, through big general get-together movements. Civic patriotism, just like religion,

needs a little stirring up every now and then. Commercial organization work has been going on less than 200 years and we have had Christianity for nearly 2000 years. If they still have to have revivals to punch the people up to a realization that the saving of their souls requires a little of their own personal effort and can't all be done by the clergyman, it is reasonable to suppose that the people have to be jolted real hard now and then to bring them to a realization of their community obligation. The booster part is valuable just to keep the people thinking about their duty to their community.

While the booster stuff is, from the nature of things, the most obvious part of commercial organization work, it is really only a screen for the hard steady drive. The most important work of a commercial organization is usually the least spectacular and usually carries with it the least glory. A lot of hip-hip-hurrah, burn-the-red-

fire and get-out-the-band stunts by themselves, without a steady, direct drive to a definite ultimate something to be achieved by the organization, will not get any further than will the commercial organization that tries to do all of the serious work without illuminating it with the booster stuff. Proportioning the Activities.

The serious work and booster stuff must be properly proportioned or your commercial organization will join the wreckage of unintelligently guided commercial organizations that is strewn over America from coast to

A community is just as aggressive as its average citizen and no more sc And in striking the average the atti tude of every individual must be reckoned with. The man who thinks he has discharged his community obligation by paying his annual dues to his commercial organization is on a par with the man who expects to get a pass through the gates of heaven with his receipt for his pew rent. He must also contribute energy and

To be a success a commercial or ganization must have three things, the lack of any one of which will spell ultimate disaster. They are: 1st. Numerical strength,

Adequate finances. An interested working mem

The order in which they are named does not indicate their relative importance. They are equally important. With these three things an in telligently guided organization can ac complish wonders for any city, no matter what the local conditions may be. Of course under these three general heads come many sub-heads. Definite Aim Essential.

A commercial organization without a definite aim in view is a good dea' like a ship starting out from port with no destination. It may get some where but the chances are pretty strong that it will run around in s circle until it has exhausted its fuel supply and then stop.

A program of work or platform o' activities or whatever one chooses to call it is very essential to a commercial organization. It provides a means of being constructively en gaged continuously, of having some thing to do between "stunts." A suc cessful commercial organization cannot confine itself to doing the big things. It must be busy all of the time. To do this it must have a pro-

A great deal of time and money has been inefficiently expended by commercial organizations in aimless exist ence. That money hasn't been wasted, because even an aimless commersome achievement if it lasts long enough, just as a blind hog will pick up an acorn now and then. Program for Three Years.

While it is understood that a commercial organization should be financed for a period of three years and that the program of activities should be made with the view of its extend-ing over that period, it is by no means expected that a program published at the time of beginning of the activities of an organization shall limit the action of the body to the things set forth in that program. The program should be added to from time to time; frequently group meetings develop new things that should be included.

The program of any commercial organization should not be arbitrarily set by the board of directors but should be made up from the suggestions from the membership. The board of directors should be in fact just what the name implies. Tec many commercial organizations demand that their directors shall do it all and then kick because they are do-

ing it all. The board of directors should direct the energies of the membership in ac cordance with the weight of the opin ion of the membership. They should. of course, be the executive authority over the country and it is forcing job-bing houses to place branches nearer the raw material and the ultimate conbership or before taking any radical step that might seriously involve the ing a good town there is the dollar the directors the matter should be and the cents consideration. erendum vote, and the weight of opinday is the rival of every other city ion as expressed by the votes cast should govern.

Citizen Owes Support. . Every citizen of every community owes his hearty support to his commercial organization. Because the old commercial organization may have gone to seed or because one set of officers or directors may have made mistakes is no excuse for standing aloof. The mistakes of the past should be the stepping stones of future success.

The man who will not lend his brains, his energy and some of his money to the efforts of his fellow citizens in directing the constructive forces of his community along the course that is best for the city as a whole is not a useful citizen. No man has the right to refuse his support to a community movement any more than the community has the right to refuse its protection to any man. The man who absorbs the benefits of the commercial organization's efforts without contributing thereto is a community parasite.

A commercial organization should in reality as well as in theory, be the hub around which revolve the civic activities of the community. It is too frequently thought that the attitude of the people in any given community reflects the efficiency of the commercial organization. That is not true Just the reverse is the case. The commercial organization reflects the aggressiveness of the people in its

MILITARY TRAINING FOR U. S. SCHOOLBOYS

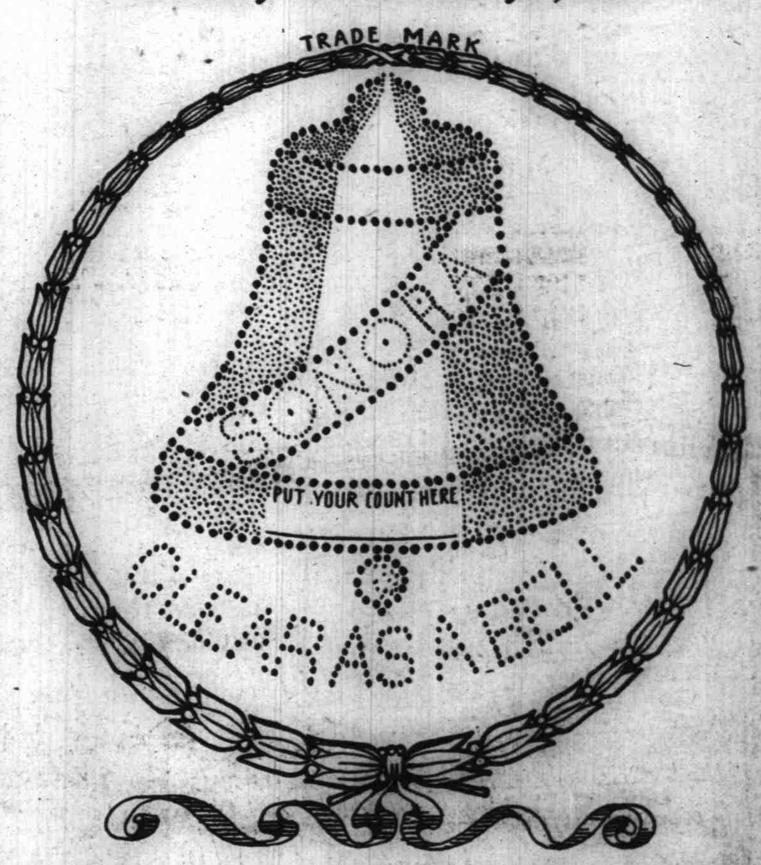
WASHINGTON, D. C .- The enactment of laws providing for the military training of boys in high schools throughout the United States will be urged in Congress in connection with the army bill. This was made plain by Congressman Sydney Anderson of

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Contestants may send in their clippings daily or weekly, or all together after the contest closes December 31.

Back copies may be procured at the Star-Bulletin Office at any time.

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